England. [Appendix Hist. ...] + b 71 bb 10

A TRVE AND CREDIBLE REPORT,

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LONDON
Printed by *E A.* for *VValter Burre*, dvvelling in Paules Churchyard, at the signe of the Flower deluce.

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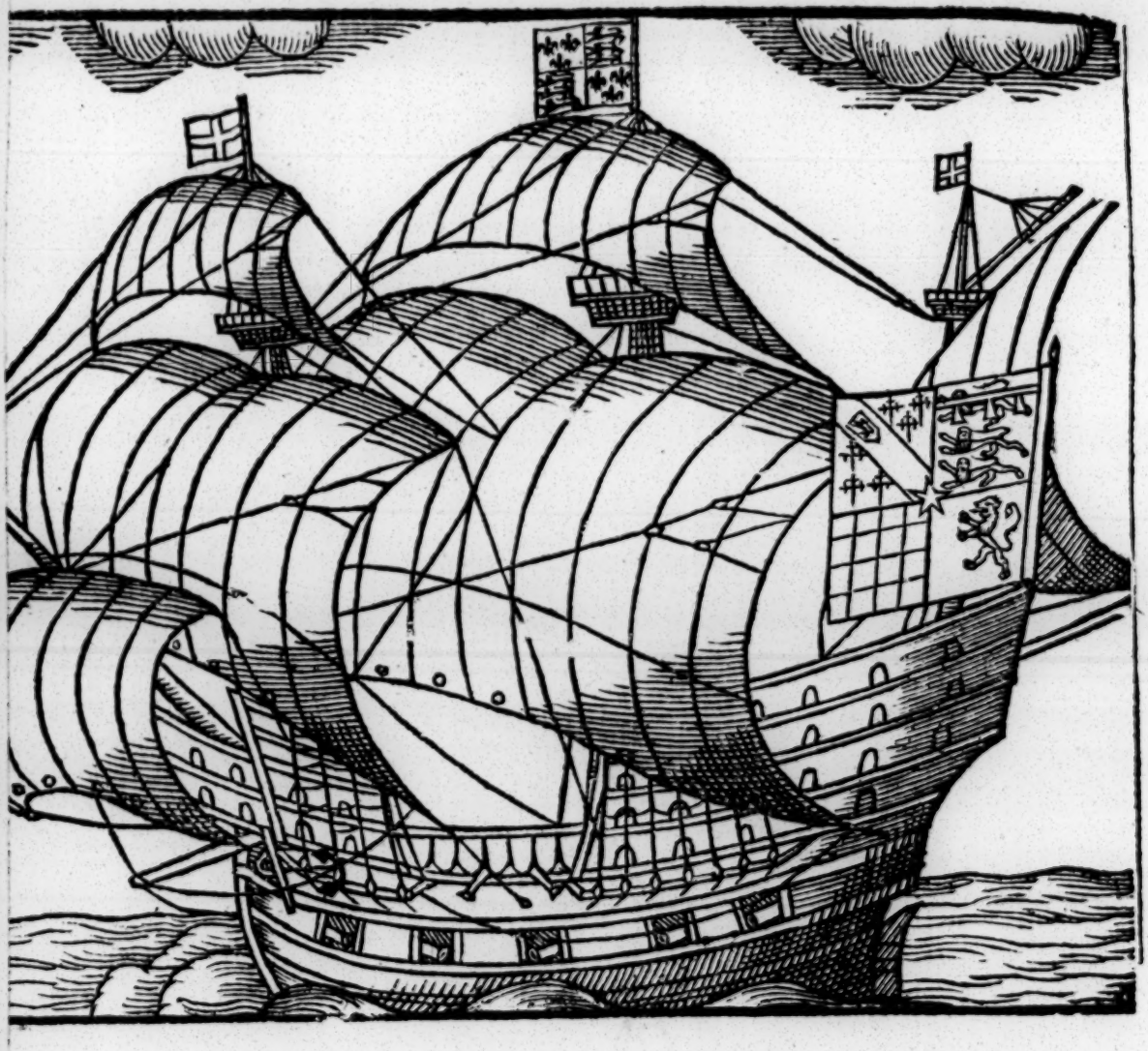

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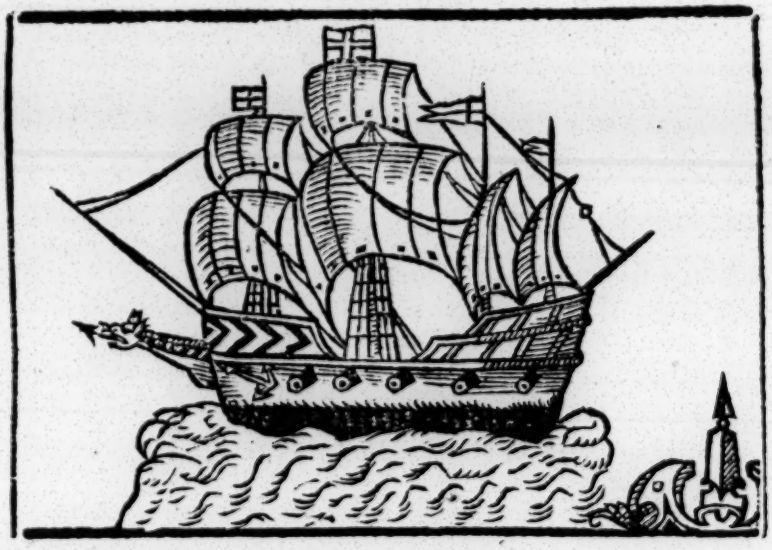

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A true and credible report, of a great and very daungerous fight at Sea, betweene certaine Shippes belonging to sundry Merchantes of England: and fiue well appointed men of Warre of the King of Spaines.

(* * *)

SIR, I receiued your last letters, wherin I finde my selfe much indebted and indeared to your loue, which to my vttermost I will practise all possible meanes to requite. As touching your request for further intelligence concerning Newport, and what hath since that hotte and sharpe battaile been done, eyther by the Cardinall or his excellency: I cannot therein as yet satisfie you to my minde, and therefore craue pardon till better opportunity. Onely these newes comming to my hands, from some of good sort & especiall respect: let them serue to furnish your desire for this instant, and expect from me the rest, as occasion shall giue leaue.

THis present yeare 1600. and on the 14. of Aprill last, fiue English Ships & one Hollander of Amsterdame, setting together from Zephalonia, sayled on chærefully with prosperous weather,

and resolued determination to defend one another from any enemy whatsoeuer. Thus came they by degrees to the streights of Gibraltare the 4. of May following, where being becalmed, they were glad to cast Anchor on the coast of Barbery nere to Tettewan some 8. Leagues short of Gibraltare. There they remained hulling off and on, to and fro, continually hindred by aduerse windes, vntill the 28. following. On which day (somewhat early) they discryed fiue goodly tall Ships making towards them, all which they might easily discerne to be Men of warre: whervpon the Admiral of the English, being called the Ascention, stil edg'd vp with them til she got so nere, that she knew them to belong to the king of Spaine, and that of hys strongest and best prepared: which made her hoyse vp her top Gallant Sayles, and kayze and flatly sayle from the rest.

The Vize-Admirall of the English, called the Cherubin, a good Ship belonging to the right worshipful M. Alderman Holmden (seeing the Admirall thus to forsake them, and keep her selfe to Leeward of the Fleete, as if they were not of one company: because the George and the Sacre, two other of the Fleete, were not so swift in sayle as the rest, and therefore likely to be endangered) gallantly made vp betweene the men of warre and them, to know whence they were, and what they would. Which being accordingly performed, she found the enemy to haue two Admirals, the one bearing an English Flagge, the other a Flemmish,

Flemmiſh, which gaue ſome hope that they might prooue to be friends, and therefore made her aduenture nærer to hayle them, and ſo ſhee did to that of the Flemmiſh Banner. Thereof as it ſæmed, an Engliſh man was Captaine, for in very good Engliſh hee made anſwere to the Maſter of the Cherubin: That hee was for the King of Spaine, and there were twenty ſayle more of Gallyes comming from Gibraltare, therefore hee aduiſed him to ſtrike for the King of Spaine, promiſing if he did ſo, he ſhould finde mercy, if not, immediate death and deſtruction.

The Maſter of the Cherubin boldely replyed, that he would neuer ſtrike ſayle to an Engliſh Traytour: but bad him come a boord if he durſt: to which the other anſwered he would doe preſently. And ſo began the fight betwæne them, with their greate Ordinaunce, till the two enemy Admirals on eyther ſide boorded the Cherubin, entring 80. or 100. men at the very firſt: among whom were many Engliſhmen, that gaue them very vile and approbrious ſpæches, which coſt the deareſt bloud in moſt of their bodyes, before they parted.

At their firſt boording, the men came in ſuch number vpon the netting abaft the Maſt of the Cherubin, that they hewed it downe vpon them, and they had no other refuge, but to take the netting before the Maſte for their defence, and ſo they maintained fight with the enemy for an houre, face to face, at puſh of Pike,

and

and with their small shot: in which time they kild and maimed very many of them, which very greatly weakning their former hot fury, they were faine at length to flye to their owne Ships for refuge.

One of their Admirals finding her selfe so sore beaten, her ribbes and sides rent and mangled with the English great Ordinaunce, and looking for no better after to follow, but rather worse if she durst byde by it: left the Cherubin as an vnequall copesmate, and fell aboord with the George, where likewise by the Master and his company they were manfully resisted, and fought withall the space of two whole howers, euen with as great courage and ballour as possibly might be in men. In the meane while, an other great Shippe had layde the George aboord on the other side: but stayed not by it, but left the first as sufficient to deale with her, and so the fight continued betweene them till all was ended.

But now to speake of the Vize-admirall (the Cherubin againe) who after she had beaten off one of them, as was before expressed: there came vp to her another great Shippe, that did not offer as then to boord her, but fought together single with their great Ordinaunce. This did her more iniury then both the other before had done, killing and spoyling her men by two and three at a shote: so that betweene the maine Mast and fore Mast, the dead bodies lay like

a Shambles or Butchery, the bloud of the slaine running aboundantly foorth at the Skupper holes.

Yet for all this extreamity, the enemy still had as good as he gaue, for in this single fight, they shot her vnder water, so that they were glad to lye by the Lee to stoppe their Leake: which being done, they came vp againe thwart their hause to boord the Cherubin. But the Master thereof (hauing his prowe Ordinaunce ready charged) sent them such a salutation vnder water again in their Larboord quarter, that they could not by any endeuour make stoppage of it, but were enforced with all the haste they could possibly make, to recouer the shoare.

But the other that first boorded the Cherubin, continued still the fight, being fast lasht to her Larboord quarter, and seeing shee could not preuaile to winne the Ship, eyther by entring on her Decke or otherwise: they got foorth into theyr side Galleries with 50. or 60. men, all well appointed for the purpose, and now set downe an absolute resolue, that they would breake in through the great Cabbin, and so be Masters of the Shippe vnder the halfe Decke. But the no lesse valliant then well aduised Master and his Gunners, foreseeing the mischiefe that they aymed at, disapointed them of that hope. For perceiuing the bulke head of their Cabin to bee beaten downe with shot: made out two Sacres to entertaine them as they were comming in, wher-

with they slewe and maimed so many of them, as all the rest grew faint-hearted and discouraged. And now they had no stomacke at all left to lye longer aboord, but made what hasty meanes they could sodainly deuise, to cleare themselues from their Iron Grapnell to the Cherubin, which thye were glad to leaue in her, as also the hawses which were lasht vnto her, with great store of their munition, as Muskets, Pikes, swords, &c. And some 14. of their men that made haste to cleare the Shippe: Some of which leapt ouerboord, as thinking to recouer their owne Vessell by swimming, but could not, and so were drowned. The rest left behinde, were slaine by the men in the Cherubin, among whome were two English men, that made suite for mercy: but in regard of their vnnaturall trechery against they⁊ owne Country, and the bitter sharpe conflict so long endured, they were not listened vnto, but iustly and deseruedly perished among their Spanish consortes.

NOw Sir, though it had beene good manners to haue set downe all occurrences in the hapning, and as each seuerall matter tooke effect: yet let me entreate your pardon in that poynt, as better to remember some things, then none at all: & though not in their fit place, yet to piece out the discourse with matter to the purpose.

In the very heate of this daungerous fight, an English turne-coate to the enemy, getting vp into the Maine top of their ship, thinking greatly to annoy the men in the Cherubin with stones, was espyed by one (of the distressed side) who taking good noate of his villany, fetcht him downe with a Musket shot, in shorter time then before he got vp.

After that a bold insolent Spaniard, who had gotten the English Ensigne from the staffe, wrapt it in a brauery about his arme, and waſting it out, cryed, Saint Iago for Spaine: but a shot met him as the other had done, and so they stroue who should bee first in the Haddockes bellies.

Another English Traytour, with a Siluer Whistle about his necke, perceiuing the Master of the Cherubin, all the fight while to weare a red waſt-coate, cryed to him: Red-coate, Ile bee with you to bring by and by Red-coate, but presently his white shirt was as red as the others waſt-coate, of so cunning a dye as cost him his life.

During this fight with the Vize-admiral and the George, two more of the men of warre set vpon the Angell, and the Dutch Ship of Amsterdam: but the Master of the Angell, and the Duchmen, so well behaued themselues, and with such manhood withstood their boldest encounter, as they were quite voyde of any hope to preuaile. In which time of fight, the Sacre made vp with the

George vnto them, and gaue the enemy theyr whole broad side, which made them glad to flye off, and so by good happe the fyght was ended thus.

The Master of the Susan and Parnell, by reason of a very daungerous shot giuen her vnder water, euen at the very beginning of the fyght, could not performe that seruice, which otherwise very willingly shee would haue done, beside, it was long before the Leake could be made sure, and therefore in this case to bee held the more excused.

The Ascention the Admirall, who as yee heard before fell at first to Lee-ward: came vp againe a little before the fight was ended, and receiued a great shot from the enemy, whereby three men was slaine in her.

THus Sir, haue I breefely imparted vnto yee euery circumstance concerning this hotte and daungerous fight at Sea, and certifie yee withall, that to the no little ioy of the owners, who had no meane aduenture in these Shippes, they are safely arriued in the riuer of Thames, and haue not lost any iotte of theyr lading, notwithstanding all this perrill.

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The names of the Shippes, as alſo their Maſters, and what men vvere ſlayne in them.

The Aſcention beeing the Admirall, had 3. men ſlaine. M. Rickman Maſter therof.

The Cherubin Vize-admirall, had 11. men ſlaine, 7. hurt. M. Lawſe Maſter.

The Angell Rereadmirall, had 2. men ſlaine, with ſome hurt. M. Streete Maſter.

The Sacre had 1. man ſlaine. M. Crippes Maſter.

The Suſan and Parnell had none ſlaine. M. Coitemoore Maſter.

The George had 2. men ſlaine. M. Abrahall Maſter.

The Dutch Ship 1. man ſlaine. M. Adrian Maſter.

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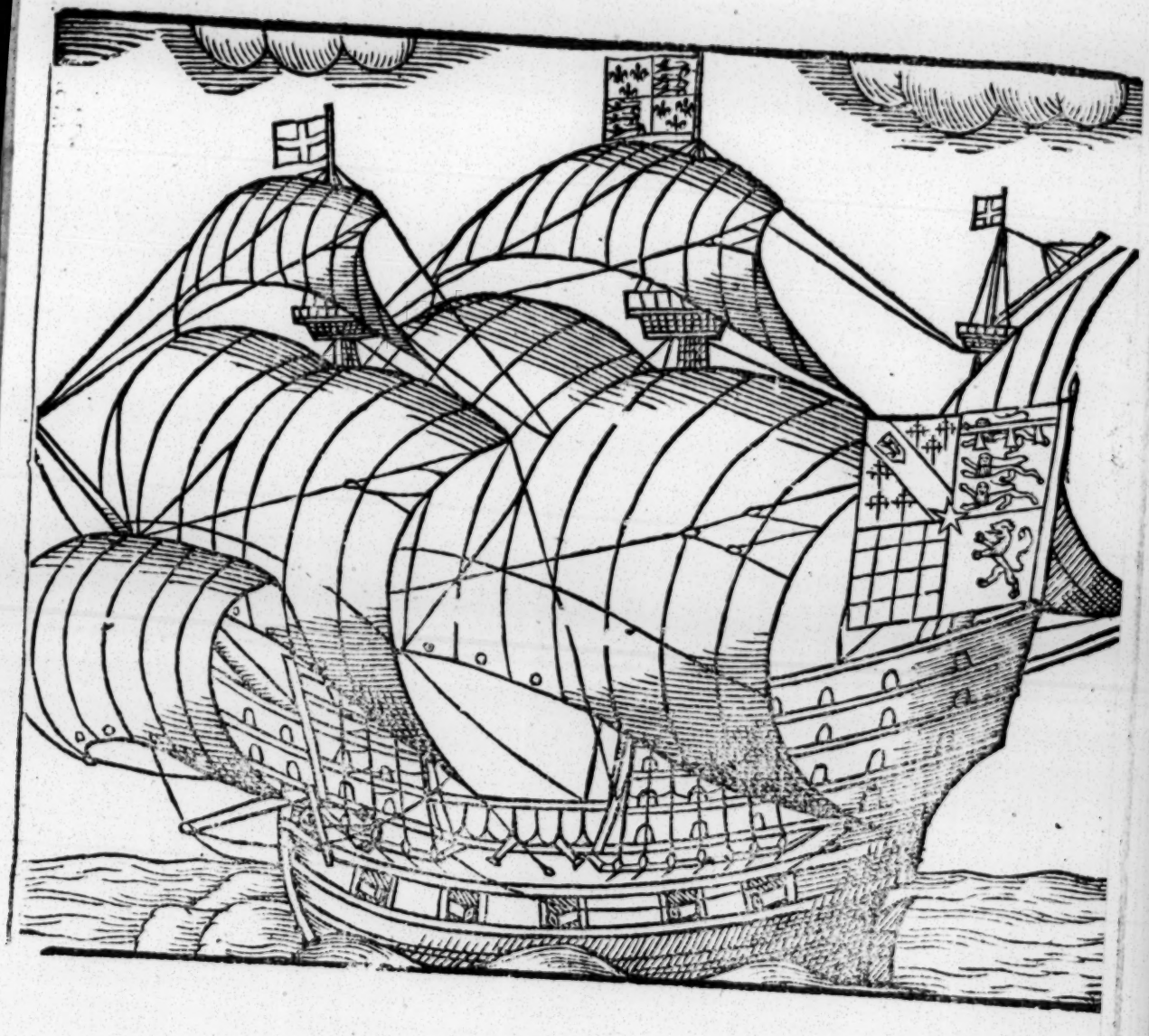

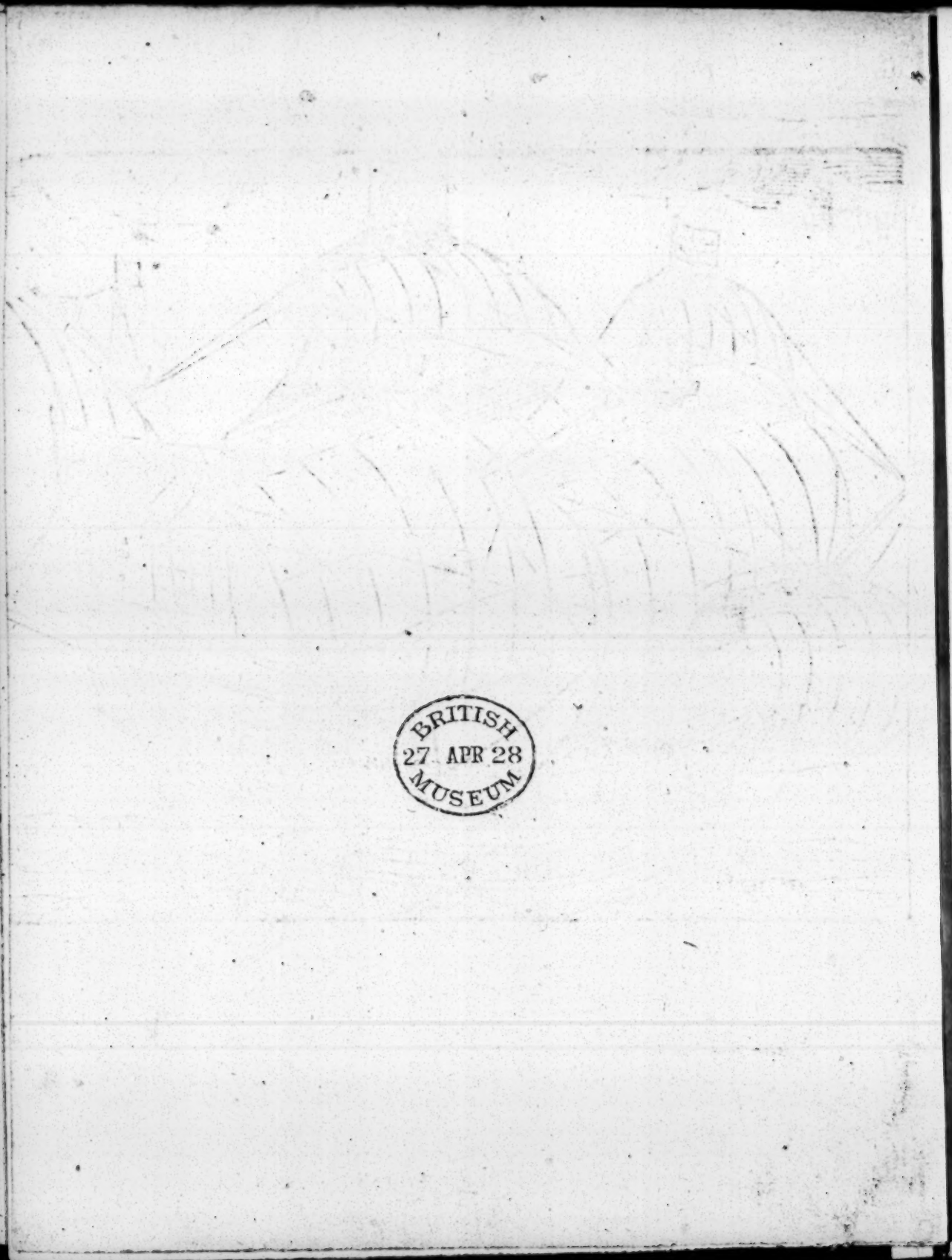

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